

Voluntary - Public

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2009 Recommended Criteria for Harmful Materials

Report Categories:

FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

The Korean Food & Drug Administration (KFDA) has announced the 2009 Plan for Recommended Criteria for Harmful Materials. The purpose of the program is to monitor and test for harmful substances until an official standard is established.

General Information:

FAS Seoul has acquired a copy of KFDA's 2009 Plan for Recommended Criteria for Harmful Materials, which was announced last March. The purpose of the program, which initially started in 2006, is to monitor and test for harmful substances until an official standard is established.

KFDA randomly tests for these hazardous substances in the specified products, both imported and domestic. If a product exceeds the recommended criteria, KFDA will strongly encourage the local manufacturers and/or importers to conduct a voluntary recall.

The fact that the recommended criteria are typically enforced before becoming official requirements is problematic since trading partners' WTO comments are not given their due consideration.

Furthermore, early enforcement creates confusion for U.S. suppliers as they are often unaware of these recommended standards.

FAS/Seoul has published a more detailed report ([KS6100](#)) about the Recommended Criteria, which includes information about KFDA's internal process for developing these standards, as well as the monitoring and testing of local and imported foods for the presence of these substances.

2009 Recommended Criteria					
Food Products	Substances to Be Controlled	Recommended Criteria to be Adopted	Implementation Status	WTO Notification Status	USG Comment Status
Flaxseed oil (linseed oil)	Hydrogen cyanide	25mg/kg or below	To be determined (TBD)	Unnotified	N/A
Curry powder, nutmeg, turmeric, dried pepper, dried paprika, and natural spices that contain such listed ingredients	Total aflatoxin (sum of B1, B2, G1, and G2)	Not more than 15 µg/kg (however, B1 shall be not more than 10 µg/kg)	Korea announced this proposed measure on March 11, 2009 and the criteria have been in effect since that date.	Notified to the WTO on March 23, 2009 under G/SPS/N/KOR/320. The last date for public comments is May 22, 2009.	Pending
Confectionery goods that contain corn as an ingredient	Fumonisin	Not more than 1 mg/kg (as sum of B1 and B2)	TBD	Unnotified	N/A
Synthetic resins (40 items)	Mercury and Chrome VI	not more than 100 (as sum of lead, cadmium, mercury and chromium VI)	Korea announced this proposed measure on March 11, 2009 and the criteria have been in effect since that date.	Notified to the WTO on March 24, 2009 as G/SPS/N/KOR/321. Last date for public comments is May 22, 2009.	Pending
Food products suspected to contain the listed substances	Sinamildenaflil and Chlorodenaflil	Should not be detected	Korea announced this proposed measure on March 11, 2009 and the criteria have been in effect since that date.	Notified to the WTO on March 23, 2009 under G/SPS/N/KOR/320. The last date for public comments is May 22, 2009.	Pending

In addition to the 2009 list, KFDA continues to apply the recommended criteria for some items that were listed in 2008. The following is a list of items that will be continued to be monitored.

Food Products	Substances to Be Controlled	Recommended Criteria to be Adopted	Implementation Status	WTO Notification Status	USG Comment Status
Liquid type teas	Cadmium	0.1 mg/kg or below	In effect since December 24, 2008.	Notified to the WTO on June 6, 2008 as G/SPS/N/KOR 283.	USG submitted comments on August 5, 2008 requesting scientific justification.
Corn and others*	Total aflatoxin (sum of B1m B2, G1, and G2)①	Not more than 15 µg/kg (however, B1 shall be not more than 10 µg/kg)	Korea adopted this proposed standard on March 2, 2009. However, enforcement will not begin until August 31, 2009.	Notified to the WTO on January 6, 2009 under G/SPS/N/KOR/311. The comment period closed on March 7, 2009.	USG submitted comments on March 10, 2009 requesting scientific justification.
PVC	Benzenebutyl phthalate	Not more than 30 mg/L	Korea announced the proposed measure on October 6, 2008 and the criteria have been in effect since that date.	Notified to the WTO on October 15, 2008 as G/SPS/N/KOR/296. The comment period closed on December 14, 2008.	No USG comments submitted.
	Dibutyl phthalate	Not more than 0.3 mg/L			
	Diisodecyl phthalate	Not more than 9 mg/L			
	Diisooctyl phthalate	Not more than 9 mg/L			
	Di-n-Octyl phthalate	Not more than 5 mg/L			
	Diethylhexyl adipate	Not more than 18 mg/L			

* Others include simple corn processed food products, corn products for popcorn, fermented dry soybean paste, soybean paste, Korean soybean paste, seasoned soybean paste, red pepper paste, seasoned red pepper paste, red pepper powder, mixed bean paste, peanut, peanut butter, peanut or nut processed food products, peanut or nut contained confectionery goods, steamed rice

For those measures that are still open for public comment, U.S. industry can submit comments to Korea's official enquiry point with a copy to Roseanne Freese, FAS/Washington. For measures that have not been notified to the WTO, U.S. industry can contact Post to voice their concerns. Contact information follows:

Korea Enquiry Point:

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